

Invitation to a special lecture**Murals of Tibet—****a previously invisible chapter of world heritage****by Thomas Laird****12 Februar 2019, 16–18 Uhr ct, Hörsaal B****Kunsthistorisches Institut, Ostasiatische Kunstgeschichte****Koserstr. 20, 14195 Berlin**

The unique book, *Murals of Tibet* presents the world's first life size images of whole Tibetan wall murals, created by Thomas Laird, with commentary and captions by Dr Robert Thurman, Dr Heather Stoddard and Jakob Winkler. Since 1986 Laird studied the finest surviving murals across the Tibetan Plateau; developed new methods for creating images of them and explored the narratives behind them. During his presentation Thomas Laird will present and discuss the TASCHEN book: only 998 copies of this XL format book have been printed. He will also discuss the mission of his archive, its access, conservation and use by scholars, monks, museums, and the public, as well as use in a "commentary project" about the mural narratives. Throughout his presentation Laird will address current and historical Tibetan, Indian and European ideas about Buddhist murals. He will also touch upon the history of the Wunderkammer, the fate of specific Buddhist murals in Europe, (such as the Bezeklik murals brought to Europe by Albert von Le Coq once displayed in the Museum of Ethnology in Berlin) in Asia (Bamiyan) and the dialogue between his work and this history.

American photographer, artist and writer Thomas Laird has explored the art, culture, and history of the Himalayas since 1972. Based in Nepal for three decades, his reporting and photography have been published globally by TIME, Geo, Stern, Newsweek, Le Figaro, National Geographic, and many others. His nonfiction books include a history of Tibet written with the Dalai Lama, translated into 14 languages including German. From 2008, he has created the world's first life-size images of enormous Tibetan wall murals. Fine art prints of these works have been the focus of exhibitions in London and New York, and are held in both public and private collections. In 2018 TASCHEN published *Murals of Tibet*.